



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER

May 2008

Issue No. 446

**LOOK INSIDE
FOR DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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RARSFest:

“When it was 36, it was a very good year.”

**Article by Hank Montgomery K4HM,
RARSFest Chair (Article title with apologies to Frank Sinatra!)**

You did it! You broke the trend and grew RARSFest for the second year in a row!

The 36th RARSFest was April 12th 2008. It was shoulder to shoulder and wall to wall for a good part of the day and there was a good crowd all day long. We sold out of tables by the end of pre-registration and had to make arrangements to add more tables in the driving lanes on Saturday morning as fast as we could get the vehicles out of the building – and we sold all but a handfull of them as well !

A lot of things came together for this year's hamfest – especially the RARS members. There were a few minor complaints (Too hot, too breezy, PA too loud, PA can't be heard or understood, etc.) but overall RARSFest got great reviews from everyone with whom I spoke. You, the RARS Membership, should be proud of this year's hamfest, from the old salts who have been there for years down to the new members who had their first chance to pitch in this year. Everyone did a great job to get the work done in a shortened time frame.

- Bernard's setup crew had to complete RARSFest setup in 3 hours on Friday morning when in the past it has taken about three times that many hours spread over two days..
- Mary Jo had to make due with fewer tables for more people, and had to put the serving tables in the driving lane at the last minute when we could get the vehicles out of the way.
- Steve had to manage not only the pre-registrations, and the folks trying to buy tables at the door, but he also had to maintain a

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
editor@rars.org

Public Service Opportunities

Relay for Life – Benefiting the American Cancer Society

Saturday, April 26: 7:30 am till Noon
Panther Creek High School in Cary
6770 McCrimmon Parkway

Contact: John Snellen AI4RT
ai4rt@hotmail.com

Tour de Cure – Benefiting the American Diabetes Association

June 7-8, 2008: Cary to Oxford

WALK MS – Benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Saturday, May 3rd
RBC Center

Contact: Bob (K4RLC) & Alanna (K4AAC) Condor
k4rlc@earthlink.net

VE Testing

The RARSVEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

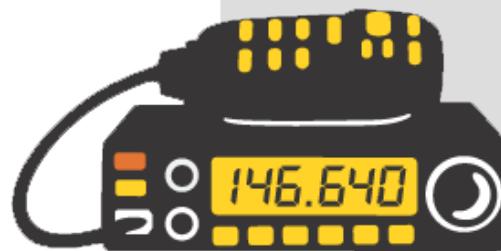
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Upcoming Hamfests

- May 3 Upstate Hamfest (SC Section Convention)
Spartanburg, SC
<http://upstatehamfest.org/>
- May 10 Rockingham Hamfest & Computer Show
Eden, NC
<http://www.rcarc.com/>
- May 24 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://www.dfma.org/>

For information
about public service
opportunities, upcoming
hamfests, and more,
visit www.rars.org.

President's Corner

Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS President

RARSFEST 2008 is now history and what a great event it was. The Exposition Center was abuzz with excited hams looking over treasures of all kinds. There are not enough words to thank all those who had a part in making the hamfest such a success. Everyone who participated in any way contributed to the positive outcome.

Thank you!!!

March 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 343	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 40/29	Checkins: 105
Minutes: 619	Minutes: 650
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 15

May Birthdays

John Robert	KG4HGB	05/04
Liz	KO4CK	05/05
Larry	KG4FIQ	05/05
Hughie	KF4RDU	05/08
Alanna	K4AAC	05/08
Hank	K4HM	05/08
Wayne	K6TWX	05/08
Christopher	N4VGK	05/09
Brian	KA9QJT	05/10
Nancy	KB1HIX	05/10
Gerry	N4GC	05/11
Ed	WA4PEN	05/13
Bob	KI4ZNM	05/15
Chris	KE4TMO	05/17
Cam	KU4VY	05/17
Chris	N4PBQ	05/17
Larry	K1ZW	05/20
Tom	K4ZAD	05/21
Courtney	KI4HOS	05/27
Lynn	KG4LTM	05/27
John	KI4YXU	05/29

Welcome to RARS!

Mike Brown	KI4WIY
Bill Edwards, Jr.	K4BWC
Steve Quist	KE4HFA
Pete Slugg	KJ4CYA

May RARS Meeting

The May program will be Emergency Preparedness by John Snellen AI4RT. There will also be VE testing.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 in room 350 of the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Dixie Trail. There were 47 members and guests present.

President Selene called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM and welcomed everyone. She then recognized special guest Cam McIntire KU4VY of Danville, VA and new member Steve Quist KE4HFA.

Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves by first name and call. Following the introductions, President Selene asked everyone to sign in. Refreshments were available in the adjoining room.

Minutes of the last meeting as published in the *Exciter* were approved. Treasurer Greg reported that RARS now has 248 members and \$36,721 in assets. RARSFest tickets were available for sale.

The following brief announcements were made:

- The RARS dinner will be next Tuesday, April 8th at the Golden Coral on Glenwood Ave..
- The RARS Board will meet Tuesday, April 15 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.
- The Down East Hamfest in Kinston will be April 6.
- The Morganton Hamfest will be April 19
- The Dayton Hamvention will be May 16, 17, and 18.
- We have two public service events coming up: April 27 Relay for Life and May 3 MS Walk. Help is needed.
- After our meeting, all are invited to go to supper.

VP Rick then announced that our birthday party last month was a big success. The program for this evening would be Hank K4HM reviewing the RARSFest plans.

President Selene then held the drawing for door prizes. We had 3 prizes: a ticket to the hamfest, a world radio map, and a VHF-UHF handbook. A potential new ham (call TBD) won first place and chose the handbook. WA4EKJ selected the map, and WD4KSE took the hamfest ticket.

Allen AB4OZ then made a quick comment that if we hear bogus or illegal stations on the repeater, we should not talk with them but rather ignore them.

Hank K4HM then took centerstage and began a discussion/review of the RARSFest plans and situation. Sign up sheets for volunteers to help with the RARSFest were passed around. Hank
(Continued on next page)

then went through a detailed discussion about issues and planning for RARSFest. They included, but were not limited to: increased attendance, no conflict with other hamfests, youth lounge, online orders up 50% over last year, workers party in May, Friday night supper for dealers/vendors and members, special event station, forums, contests, various job requirements, work issues, and prizes.

President Selene then thanked everyone that worked last year and had them standup. Then all that were scheduled to work this year were asked to stand up also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes of the February 19, 2008 RARS Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur radio Society was conducted on February 19, 2008 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Those in attendance were: Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ, John Snellen AI4RT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Steve Perrarini KJ4BX, Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Rod Thompson KI4LSN, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Steve Worley KB4HDQ, Neal Fisher N4HAF, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

At 7:00 PM President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for attending. The minutes of the January board meeting were approved as corrected.

- Treasurer Greg KE4PAX gave a brief report. RARS has 238 members. We are operating in a deficit but that is normal prior to the RARSFest.
- Web Master Steve KB4HQD had no issues.
- Field Day Chair Neal N4HAF advised that there would be a field day.
- Public Service Director John AI4RT expressed thanks for putting the *Odyssey of the Mind* info on the web. He reminded everyone of the MS walk coming up on May 3 and that he needed a few more volunteers.
- VP Rick KB4TKQ advised he has received comments from the members about a better balance of snacks. We continue to receive contributions to offset the costs of snacks. The March meeting will be the RARS birthday party and the DVD of Mr. Hollingsworth at the Dayton Hamfest.
- Hamfest chair Hank K4HM advised that 10,000 flyers were placed into the mail on this past Friday, February 15th. He is constantly making revisions to the floor plan for the building. We anticipate having access to the building on that Friday morning about 9:00 AM.

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Andrea Heartledge of ARRL will handle our Youth Lounge. She is planning such activities as transmitter hunt, scavenger hunt, and ICOM coloring books. Hank needs contacts to obtain goodies for the Youth Lounge. The next hamfest meeting will be at the QTH of WB4DCM.

Committee Reports:

- Chuck K4HF advised that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Six Forks Road will host a tech class to run two weekends. They anticipate 40 or more students. The church is putting on a push for licensed amateurs for their emergency preparedness program. The next VE exam at RARS will be in May.
- Awards Chairman Chuck K4HF advised that he had received input for who should receive awards and that he is ready.
- ARRL Coordinator Chuck K4HF had no issues.
- FM Committee Gary KN4AQ had no issues.
- Hospitality Chair Mary Jo indicated that she had received applications for 3 new members. Next, she stated that we would need food for the Friday night supper at the RARSFest.
- Director Rod KI4LSN had no comments.
- Director Ken KI4OTO advised that he was unofficially looking for additional repeater sights.

Old Business:

President Selene KG4RMT began by advising that she had sent an email to the Pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church thanking him for allowing RARS to use the church's facilities in the past. There followed a general discussion by board members about possible replacement meeting locations, availability and costs. VP Rick KB4TKQ made a presentation of several possible meeting sights that he had contacted. After much discussion, it was decided that Steve KJ4BX would contact the First Alliance Church on Buffaloe Road and make arrangements to use their facilities for our March meeting. Ken KI4OTO will be the contact person to seek input from our membership for possible meeting locations. Suggested locations will have to include availability, costs, size, parking and other issues. The deadline will be February 29 and we will have a special board meeting on March 11th to make a decision.

New Business:

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that he will be sending RARS contribution to AMSAT.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

waiting list this year due to a sell-out pre-registration!

- A new RARSFest committee member, Robin Lane, managed the brand new Youth Lounge with lots of assistance from ARRL representative Andrea Hartlage and Alana Conder.
- Chip had his first time at the helm of the stage this year.

And of course all the rest of the crew did the first rate job we have come to expect from them. Dr. Bob was the MC for the contests again and this year we had a refurbished QBH machine thanks to the excellent workmanship of Mike Murphy. Steve Mowels was the station manager of the Special Event station N4C while Ken and Bruce handled the talk-in radio. Charlie did his usual proficient management of the admissions stations – with some real marathon effort from Mary Jo and Carolyn. Dennis and his security team kept everyone in line during the hamfest and Dave cleaned up after everyone after the fest was over. Chuck took care of arrangements for dealers, and all the paperwork for the Fairgrounds administration, and Glen expanded the “hands On” activities with the addition of a Yagi kit that was a big hit.

But none of these folks could have done their job without the help of the RARS members. At any given time during RARSFest there was a staff of at least 30 people on the floor. If you do the math you will see that on Saturday there were about 300 man hours of work provided by our membership. That doesn't count the time for setup on Friday, or the time the planning committee put in for the six months before the hamfest.

As you can see, we absolutely could not have this fine hamfest without the support of our members who volunteer their time each year. And the only compensation they get is.....

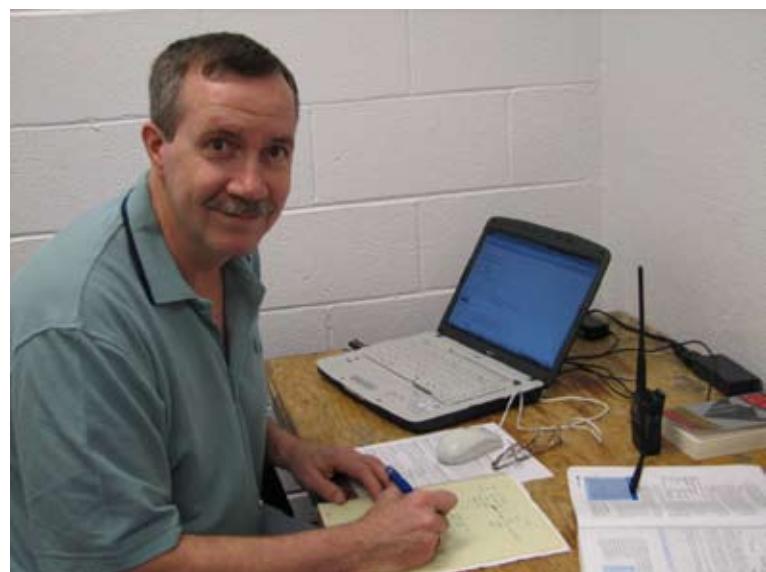
THE RARSFEST WORKER'S PICNIC!

This year the RARSFest Worker's Picnic is scheduled for Saturday afternoon May 31st. at Crabtree Park. RARSFest will provide the meat and drink and we ask the members to bring a covered dish to share. As in past years this is a family affair with games including the annual RARSFest Workers Horseshoe Championship. *All RARSFest volunteers are invited to the picnic.* Watch the RARS website for more details.

Check Out the Action: RARSFEST 2008

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Photos by Gary Pearce KN4AQ



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Photos by Gary Pearce KN4AQ





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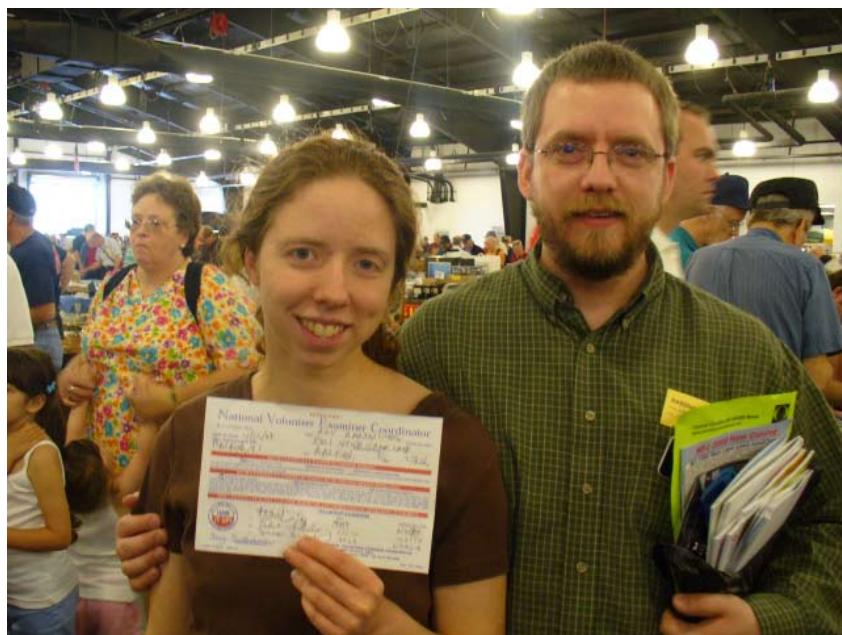


VE Testing Results

Photos by Virginia Enzor NC4VA

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“You’ve passed.” Perhaps there are no sweeter words than these after trying your hand at one of the FCC amateur radio licensing tests. Each year, people are given the opportunity to test at RARSFest. We wish to thank the VE team for their hard work. Take a look at some of the hams who upgraded their licensure and new amateur radio operators who got their ticket.



The Youth Lounge

Photos by Virginia Enzor NC4VA



RARS Interest Survey

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The new fiscal year for RARS starts in the near future. In order to best fill your amateur radio needs and interests, the RARS Board of Directors has compiled the following questions. This information will be used to determine our upcoming programs and consequently the budget for the future year. Thank you, in advance, for your prompt response.

There are 3 ways you may return this survey.

1. Copy and paste the information into an email, and send it to RARS At-Large Director Ken McEwen (kennethkay@bellsouth.net).
2. Print out this survey and mail the completed information to:
Ken McEwen KI4OTO
3702 Creekside Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
3. Bring your completed survey to the RARS meeting.

Please note that your name, call, or other identification is optional.

What is your class of license? _____

Are you interested in upgrading (if applicable)? _____

When were you licensed? _____

What programs would you like to see?

- Check up to 3 items of interest in each area. Use #1 for your highest interest, then 2, etc.
- If you are not interested in an area, don't put any preference. Feel free to add to the list.

OPERATOR TRAINING:

() New ham continuing info (Getting On The Air).
() Contest operating.
() Emergency communications.
() License upgrading (General and Extra classes).
() Message originating and handling.
() Net control training.
() Other _____
() Other _____

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RARS Interest Survey (cont.)

OPERATING:

- Field day.
- Community assistance events.
- County hunter "expeditions."
- Fox hunting.
- Hill topping.
- Other _____
- Other _____

STATION SAFETY:

- Grounding your station.
- Surge protection.
- Emergency power (generators).
- Emergency power (batteries).
- Mobile.
- RF field strength.
- Other _____

ANTENNAE:

- HF wire antennae.
- VHF homebrew antennae.
- Matching radio to antenna.
- Beam antennae.
- Other _____
- Other _____

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES:

- Planning the project.
- Schematic vs. pictorial diagrams.
- Chassis layout (metal working).
- Cabinets and cases.
- Board wiring techniques.
- Board layouts.
- Special considerations for frequencies (audio, digital, HF, VHF, UHF, etc.).
- Other _____
- Other _____

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RARS Interest Survey (cont.)

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CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

- Antenna, 2 meter "J" pole.
- Antenna, 2 meter "measuring tape" yagi for fox hunting.
- Antenna, resonant wire doublet (dipole) for HF.
- Antenna, off center fed antennas for HF.
- Power supply, 12 volt.
- Other _____
- Other _____

When would be the best time for these presentations?

- At the general membership meeting (first Tuesday of the month).
- At the RARS dinner (second Tuesday of the month).
- At the currently "unused" Tuesday evening (fourth Tuesday of the month)
- Monthly (or more frequently) Saturday mornings or afternoons.
- Other _____
- Other _____

The programs will be more interesting if each of us shares our talents. You don't have to be an expert in an area, just be willing to share what you know. What areas can YOU help us in?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

These programs may require additional meeting times/space. Would you be able to help find additional meeting space? (Church, apartment clubhouse, community center, local restaurant, etc.)

- Yes
- No

Additional comments:

Thanks again for the opportunity to better serve you.



The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.



Amateur Radio Nets

The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



**CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System**

www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



There are multiple opportunities for basic and advanced spotter training during the month of May. Check out our website for training dates and locations.



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

Same net – new name! The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter net is becoming the **Apex Emergency Response Communications net (Apex ERC)**. The name change is effective March 30, 2008. The net will still meet at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. The organization provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The RARS

~~Exciter~~

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
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Future hams? Above photo courtesy
Virginia Enzor NC4VA. Photo at right
courtesy Gary Pearce KN4AQ.

RARSFest 2008

